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 R^1 and R^2 are independently by drogen, or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ -alky l;

a and b are independently 1 or 2;

G is

J is

b

wherein R^{27} , R^{28} , R^{32} , R^{33} , R^{34} , R^{35} and R^{36} independently are hydrogen;

D is

or

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & \\ & &$$

b1

wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , are independently hydrogen or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ -alky l;

n, m and q are independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

when E is

-CONR 12 R 13 or



wherein

X is -O-,

Z is -N=,

V is -C(R16) =

Y is -N=,

 R^{16} is -(CH₂)_w R^{19} ;

 R^{12} R^{13} and R^{19} are independently by drogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl and w is independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein D is piperidin-4-ylidenyl or 2-methylpiperidin-4-yl.

26. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein E is methylcarbamoyl or 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl.



- 27. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.
- 28. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein a and b independently are 1.
- 29. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein said compound is

bl

30. (new) A method of increasing rate and extent of growth, improving milk and/or wool production and/or treating ailments in an animal resulting from a deficiency of growth hormone, the method comprising administering to said animal in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 25.

- 31. (new) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 25 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 32. (new) The composition according to claim 31 in unit dosage form, comprising from about 10 to about 200 mg of said compound.
- 33. (new) The composition according to claim 31 for oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral administration.
- 34.(new) A method of stimulating the release of growth hormone from the pituitary, the



method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 25.

- 35. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the effective amount of said compound is in the range of from about 0.0001 to about 100 mg/kg body weight per day.
- 36. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein said administration is carried out by the oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral route.
- 37. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the effective amount of said compound is in the range of from about 0.001 to about 50 mg/kg body weight per day.

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